

Rigorous Program of Study

To be eligible for the Academic Competitiveness (ACG) grant and the National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent (SMART) grant, students must complete a “rigorous program of study” in high school. The college or university the student attends is required to certify this information from documentation provided by the high school counselor, academic advisor, or the student. The “rigorous program of study” must be similar to one of the following options:

- **State Scholars Initiative** - This program of study currently offered in Michigan requires at least:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of mathematics (including algebra I, algebra II, and geometry);
 - Three years of lab science (biology, chemistry, or physics);
 - Three and one-half years of social studies; and
 - Two years of a language other than English.
- **A set of courses similar to the State Scholars Initiative** - This program of study requires passing grades in the following courses:
 - Four years of English;
 - Three years of mathematics (including algebra I and a higher level course such as algebra II, geometry, or data analysis and statistics);
 - Three years of science (including at least two courses from biology, chemistry, or physics);
 - Three years of social studies; and
 - One year of a foreign language.
- **Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses and Test Scores** - This program requires a minimum of:
 - Two AP or IB courses in high school and a minimum passing score on the exams for those classes.
 - A score of three or higher on AP exams and four or higher on IB exams.
- **Michigan Merit Standard Curriculum** - This program requires:
 - Four years of English;
 - Four years of mathematics (including algebra I, algebra II, geometry, and one credit in the senior year);
 - Three years of science (including biology, chemistry, or physics, and one additional science credit);
 - Three years of social studies;
 - One year of physical education (guidelines to be developed by the Michigan Department of Education);
 - One year of visual, performing, or applied arts (guidelines to be developed by the Michigan Department of Education); and
 - One online learning experience class.